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NOTE ON AURORA OBSERVATIONS.

Those co-operating, and others, will be interested to learn that the records of observations of the aurora made at the station of Mr. Peary in North Greenland the past winter have been received and that their comparison with similar records from other parts of the earth is now in progress. It already appears that the conclusions heretofore announced in regard to certain phases of the subject are being substantially confirmed, and that the forces of which the aurora is the visible expression and type play an exceedingly important part in many ways. The relations to certain very definite solar conditions, and to thunderstorms, and to certain phases of atmospheric control are becoming especially clear. It is fitting that all who have so kindly contributed to the success of the scheme should have assurance that their labor is not in vain. It is proposed to continue these observations, and if possible make them even more valuable. All data bearing upon the subject will be thankfully received and employed to the best possible advantage. M. A. Veeder.

Lyons, N. Y., U. S. A., Oct. 18th, 1894.

TRANSIT OF *MERCURY*, OBSERVED AT THE LICK OBSERVATORY, NOVEMBER 9–10, 1894.

Observations of the Contacts. By Professor Schaeberle.

I.	19^h	57^m	15^s	P. S. T.
II.	19	58	26	Geometrical contact.
II.	19	58	52	
III.	1	11	35	
IV.	1	13	21	

The above observations were made with the photoheliograph, aperture 3 inches.

Contacts I and II were observed on the focusing screen with the naked eye. For contacts III and IV the focal image on the screen was viewed with a hand lens of about 3 inches focus.

Observations of the Contacts. By Professor Barnard.

I.	19^h	57^m	$9^s.4$	P. S. T.
II.	19	58	42.7	Geometrical.
III.	1	11	37.1	Geometrical.
IV.	1	13	16.7	

Fifty-three measures of the Right Ascension and Declination diameters of the planet were made; and also forty-eight measures of the position of *Mercury* on the Sun's disc.

The above observations were made with the 12-inch equatorial.

Observations of the Contacts. By Mr. CAMPBELL.

I.	19^h 57^m 12^s	May be a few seconds late.
II.	19 58 23	Geometrical.
II.	19 58 39	First light between limbs.
III.	1 11 36.4	Last light between limbs.
III.	1 12 3.4	Geometrical.
IV.	1 13 11.4	

Eighteen measures of *Mercury's* position with reference to the Sun's limb were made. Sixty-two measures of the diameter of the planet gave $5''.73$ at distance unity.

The observations were made with the great equatorial, aperture 8 inches, power 350 at ingress and 270 at egress.

Observations of the Contacts. By Mr. TUCKER.

I.	19^h 57^m $11^s.8$	P. S. T.	Distinctly on limb.
II.	19 58 41 .8		
III.	1 11 33 .3		
IV.	1 13 7 .3		

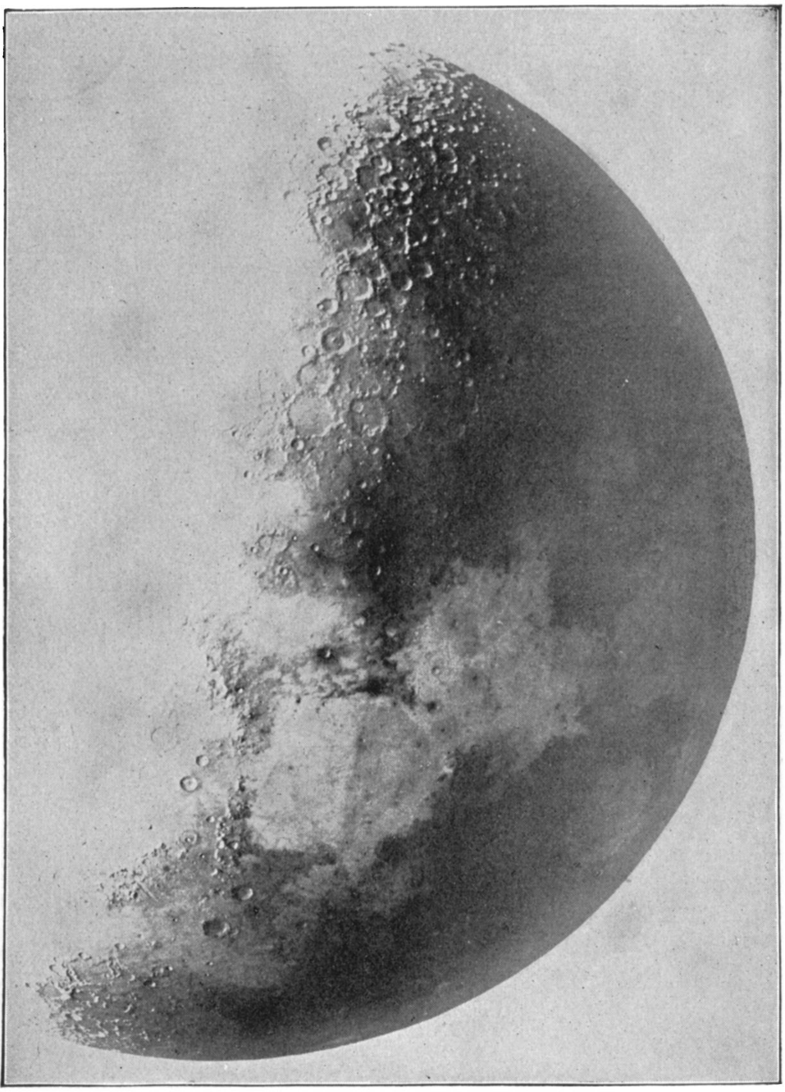
The time recorded for II and III is that at which the two limbs exactly touched, without any light being visible between. No sensible distortion of the planet was noted.

The above observations were made with the 6-inch finder of the great telescope, with the aperture reduced to 3½ inches, power 90. The Sun and *Mercury* were also observed in transit with the meridian circle, and *Mercury* was observed for Declination.

Observations of the Contacts. By Mr. PERRINE.

I.	19^h 57^m $16^s.1$	P. S. T.
II.	19 58 30 .1	Geometrical contact.
II.	19 58 57 .1	
III.	1 11 25 .1	
III.	1 11 42 .1	Geometrical contact.
IV.	1 13 15 .1	

The above observations were obtained by viewing the focal image of the photoheliograph on the focusing screen, in the case



LICK OBSERVATORY, OCTOBER 11, 1891.

of contacts I and II, with the naked eye, the effective magnifying power of the telescope being about 50; contacts III and IV were observed in the same way except that a hand magnifier of a little more than 3 inches focus was used, giving a power of about 140. The aperture of the photoheliograph was 3 inches.

Corrections to the Lick Observatory Railway Time-Signal. By Mr. Tucker.

November 9, at noon, correction to P. S. T. $= -0^{s}.03$.
November 10, at noon, correction to P. S. T. $= +0^{s}.11$.

As this clock was used in part of the observations the rate was not changed during the interval.

Photographs of the Transit with the Photoheliograph. By Professor Schaeberle and Mr. Perrine.

Thirty-eight negatives of the transit were taken with the photoheliograph. Not all of them are developed at the time of writing. Those that have been examined are all suitable for measurement.

PICTURE OF THE GREAT METEOR OF JULY 27, 1894.

The excellent cut of the meteor of July 27, 1894, is copied from a water-color sketch made by Mr. Chauncey M. St. John, which has been presented to the Lick Observatory by the artist. It is an exceedingly faithful and artistic representation of the meteor and will serve to recall the phenomenon to all who saw it from the neighborhood of Oakland, etc. It is here printed facing page 268.

E. S. H

CORRECTIONS TO HUSSEY'S LOGARITHMIC TABLES.

In the second edition, log. sin $37^\circ\ 4'$ should be 9.78013. The characteristic of log. sin 79° should be 9. These are the only numerical errors that have been reported in the first 145 pages of the book. In a few cases type of wrong font have been used; this, however, will not lead to errors in computation. On page 146, line 25, $497''.78$ should be $497^{s}.78$; and, on page 148, the velocity of light should be 29.9853 km. per second. The value of the centimetre in inches is given, on page 146, as 39370432. This is Clarke's value. It has been shown that the last three decimal places of this value are very uncertain.